

COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT REFORM
SUBCOMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND RESOURCES
CONGRESSMAN DARRELL E. ISSA, CHAIRMAN



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Chairman Issa Applauds Energy Bill Passage

Washington, DC- Representative Darrell Issa (R-CA), Chairman of the House Energy and Resources Subcommittee, today, praised final passage of the conference report on H.R. 6, the Energy Policy Act of 2005. The House of Representatives today approved the bill by a vote of 275-156, sending the conference report to the Senate for an anticipated vote tomorrow.

Issa, a member of the conference committee stated, "Since February of this year, the one constant message I have heard at hearings in my role as Chairman is the need for a diverse supply of power sources that are clean and efficient to meet America's growing energy needs. The passage of this bill will result in greater energy efficiency and conservation. A clean energy revolution in this country is underway."

"This bill contains important provisions to promote solar energy through tax credits and provisions that will give California the flexibility to meet its stringent vehicle emission standards without unnecessarily burdening consumers," said Issa about provisions he had urged fellow conferees to include in the final report.

"I commend Chairman Joe Barton and all the conferees for their hard work and was pleased to see to that this legislation authorizes the continued use of Energy Savings Performance Contracts that have over recent years provided the federal government with an effective tool to rapidly improve the energy efficiency of buildings without increasing costs to the taxpayer. I am also pleased that the legislation authorizes the use of additional transaction authority to give the Department of Energy more flexibility in critical research and development efforts," said Chairman Issa in reference to provisions in the Energy Policy Act that fell under the jurisdiction of the House Government Reform Committee.

President George Bush has called the energy legislation critical to economic growth and national security. Since coming to Washington in January 2001, the President has stressed the need for a comprehensive energy policy and has shown leadership by calling for action on energy development and conservation. The Senate is expected to pass the bill tomorrow, finally satisfying President Bush's goal of signing into law a comprehensive energy bill.

The bill includes measures designed to promote domestic production of oil and natural gas to reduce our dependence on foreign sources. It will spur development of clean energy sources like nuclear, clean coal, and renewables, and promote energy conservation. It will also significantly strengthen the nation's electricity grid.

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